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One burst by Swans kills off the Saints

By STEPHEN CAUCHI

Sydney played like a premiership team in beating St Kilda by 17 points at Waverley Park on Saturday. Just like the great Carlton sides of the early '80s, it played one sensational quarter of football and did little else.

St Kilda coach Stan Alves succinctly summed up the third term, in which Sydney booted 8.3 to 0.4: "We got a hiding," he said. "We became rattled . . . we lost the plot."

Sydney coach Rodney Eade explained away his side's third term with vague references to better attacks on the ball and increasing work rates, but he also singled out Jason Mooney.

Mooney, who had only three games and three goals to his name for the year before Saturday's match, started on the back line but was shifted up to centre half-forward for the third quarter.

Little did Eade know that the move was the shot in the arm that Sydney needed. Within the first seven minutes of the third quarter, Mooney had two goals on the board and had a hand in one of Tony Lockett's.

Suddenly, the Swans started delivering the ball with precision. Stuart Maxfield made some tough tackles, Michael O'Loughlin kicked a spectacular goal from an angle, Lockett kicked another two, and the Saints had gone from a 12-point lead to a 35-point deficit.

Lockett finished with four third-quarter goals after being held to two in the first half by Jamie Shanahan. But it was his teammates downfield who were the matchwinners.

Eade praised O'Loughlin's performance as fantastic, although criticising his earlier delivery to Lockett. He said O'Loughlin was as good an opponent as any in the competition.

That the Saints came back to within three goals in the last quarter was proof of their determination. It was also proof of a major flaw in their attack, with Stewart Loewe the sole forward.

SYDNEY	14.12 (96)
ST KILDA	11.13 (79)

Alves, while praising the "competitive" and "credible" performance of the Saints, well earned given the last-quarter performance, was disappointed that the Saints could not go any further.

"We didn't have any believers. The other forwards should have been presenting themselves, not just Stewart Loewe," he said.

And Loewe, thanks to a knock that resulted in a cut ear, was held goalless after half-time. In the last term, during the Saints' comeback to get within three goals of the Swans, he wasted a chance to kick a short pass to Peter Everitt in an unguarded goal square.

Not that St Kilda's forwards can take all the blame for their ineptitude. Paul Roos played another sterling game in defence for the Swans. Alves admitted that his ploy of tagging Roos with Jayson Daniels failed.

After the game, Eade was playing down Sydney's chances of finishing on top of the ladder. In contrast, Alves tried his hardest to be upbeat about St Kilda's finals chances.

"As long as it's mathematically possible, it's never the end," said Alves.

But, as Eade observed, St Kilda played as if it was its last chance to make the eight. For the first half and the last quarter, this was certainly so: the Saints kicked 11 goals to six in these three quarters.

Next round — SYDNEY: The game against Adelaide at the SCG on Sunday is unlikely to remove the Swans from top spot. Cresswell, who received a corked thigh, may miss.

ST KILDA: If Saturday's game was not the sealer on the Saints' finals chances, then a loss to North Melbourne at the MCG on Friday night will be. Loewe (cut ear) and Keogh (bruised shin) should be OK, according to Alves.

Picture: JOE ARMAO



Stewart Loewe has a few words to Swans full-back Andrew Dunkley after the Saints' full-forward copped a knock on the head on Saturday.

Vic Metro too good for SA in U-18 title

By STEPHEN CAUCHI

Victorian Metro overcame highly fancied South Australia to claim victory in division one of the inaugural under-18 national championships at the MCG yesterday, winning 13.9 (87) to 8.11 (59).

The championships have replaced the Teal Cup, which catered for under-17s.

Yesterday's match, the last in the championships, amounted to a playoff. Both sides were the only ones to record two wins, each beating Victorian Country and Western Australia. WA, which beat Vic Country on Saturday, had one win, Vic Country none.

Tasmania won division two, in which Queensland, NSW/ACT, and the Northern Territory also competed.

After an even first quarter, Metro dominated the second and SA the third, setting the scene for a nail-biting final term.

But goals in the first three minutes to Dion Miles and Heath Black sparked the Vics. Andrew Eccles' goal at the 23-minute mark sealed the game, with Black kicking his third on the siren.

THE TOP 10

The pick of the undrafted players:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Stuart Dew: A 16-year-old left-footed wingman from Central District with great pace and a long kick.

Warren Tredrea: Tall 17-year-old forward from Port Adelaide who is likely to be drafted by Port Power.

Scott Matthews: Mobile 17-year-old ruckman with the spring of John Barnes. Can play up forward.

VICTORIA:

Jess Sinclair: Dashing 17-year-old, right and left-foot skills, great mark and tackle for height.

Patrick Steinfort: A 17-year-old with great ruck and leadership skills and mobile around ground. Won Larke medal for best in division one.

Heath Black: A 17-year-old forward/wingman with left, right-foot skills.

Mark Kinnear: Tall 16-year-old key-position player.

Nathan Brown: An 18-year-old rover from Bendigo. Can play wing or forward.

QUEENSLAND:

Grant Burgess: State's most consistent player. A 17-year-old ruck-rover.

TASMANIA:

Gerard Bennett: A 17-year-old possession-getter who plays full-forward or centre half-forward.

THE STATISTICS

SWANS	Kicks					Marks					Handball					Free		Scr		HO	Tk	Sh	Vo	To
	1	2	3	4	T	1	2	3	4	T	1	2	3	4	T	F	A	G	B					
P Roos	3	4	2	4	13	1	4	2	3	10	3	3	3	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	43
T Lockett	1	2	6	0	9	1	2	4	0	7	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	6	3	0	1	0		37
C O'Brien	2	2	6	3	13	2	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	1		28
A Dunkley	1	1	2	2	6	1	0	2	1	4	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0		11
B Seymour	0	1	0	4	5	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		14
D Cresswell	4	3	4	1	12	1	3	2	0	6	2	0	2	0	4	1	3	0	0	0	1	1		23
S Grant	2	0	1	2	5	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		10
S Maxfield	4	4	3	6	17	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	27
K Dyson	2	2	4	1	9	4	0	0	1	5	1	1	1	3	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	0		20
P Kelly	5	1	2	2	10	1	0	1	1	3	2	1	3	0	6	1	3	1	0	0	4	1		25
G Stafford	3	2	1	3	9	2	0	2	1	5	2	1	1	2	6	2	0	0	0	10	0	0		33
A Rocca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		4
J Mooney	0	1	6	1	8	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1		16
S Direen	1	2	3	1	7	1	1	2	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	1		16
M O'Loughlin	3	4	2	1	10	1	3	0	0	4	2	1	1	1	5	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	7	30
J Crawford	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		6
D Kickett	5	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1		9
S Garlick	6	2	6	2	16	2	0	2	2	6	1	2	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	1		28
D McPherson	0	2	2	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		10
T Luff	4	2	5	4	15	3	0	3	2	8	3	1	0	0	4	2	3	0	0	1	2	0		29
A Heuskes	3	2	5	2	12	1	2	2	0	5	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0		20
Rushed																			5					
TOTALS	49	38	60	41	188	25	17	28	16	86	22	19	15	13	69	15	23	14	12	11	22	10		

FREES	Backs	Ctres	Fwds	TOTAL
	6	5	4	15

GOALS	Frees	Play	Marks	TOTAL
	2	3	9	14

DIST	0–15	16–30	31–40	41 +
	1	5	3	5

50 METRE PENALTIES FOR:	0
GOALS FROM PENALTIES:	0

DETAILS

SYDNEY	5.2	6.5	14.8	14.12 (96)
ST KILDA	4.2	8.5	8.9	11.13 (79)

Goals — SYDNEY: Lockett 6, O'Brien 2, Mooney 2, Grant, Kelly, O'Loughlin, Heuskes. ST KILDA: Loewe 3, Everitt 2, Beveridge 2, Brown, Smith, Winmar, McLean.

Best — SYDNEY: Roos, O'Loughlin, Maxfield, Garlick, Stafford, Mooney, Luff.
ST KILDA: Brown, Harvey, Burke, Young, Smith.

Injuries — SYDNEY: Creswell (shoulder). ST KILDA: Keogh (bruised shin), Loewe (lacerated ear).

Umpires: Carey, Harvey, Sawers.

Crowd: 34,377.

At Waverley Park.

Gate: $161,177.00.

THE VOTES

Stephen Cauchi

P Roos (Syd)	8
M O'Loughlin (Syd)	7
S Maxfield (Syd)	7
T Brown (StK)	6
R Harvey (StK)	6

*Votes do not apply to Dreamteam.

ST KILDA	Kicks					Marks					Handball					Free		Scr		HO	Tk	Sh	Vo	To
	1	2	3	4	T	1	2	3	4	T	1	2	3	4	T	F	A	G	B					
J Peckett	3	0	1	3	7	1	1	0	3	5	3	2	2	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		22
T Brown	3	7	2	4	16	2	4	1	2	9	3	3	1	5	12	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	6	48
N Burke	1	2	5	3	11	1	0	0	1	2	5	4	1	3	13	2	0	0	1	0	4	1		33
J Smith	4	3	6	6	19	3	2	2	2	9	1	1	0	3	5	2	2	1	1	0	1	0		37
N Winmar	3	6	2	3	14	0	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	0		22
P Everitt	4	3	1	2	10	1	2	0	2	5	1	1	0	1	3	2	3	2	1	7	1	1		32
S Wakelin	1	1	0	3	5	1	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	2		15
K Bardsley	3	1	1	2	7	2	1	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2		16
D Wilkelin	1	0	0	2	3	3	0	0	2	5	3	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0		15
R Neil	5	2	2	4	13	1	1	1	2	5	2	0	2	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		25
R Keogh	2	4	1	3	10	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	2	3	6	2	0	0	0	0	2	2		24
M Young	4	7	5	2	18	0	3	2	0	5	2	1	1	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		32
S Loewe	2	2	3	2	9	2	1	2	2	7	1	0	1	0	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	1		29
L Beveridge	2	3	0	1	6	1	1	1	0	3	2	2	1	2	7	1	0	2	0	0	2	0		25
J Elliott	0	3	1	0	4	0	3	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	1		13
A Jones	3	2	0	2	7	1	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1		14
J Shanahan	2	0	1	1	4	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		9
J Traianidis	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		5
J Daniels	0	2	3	2	7	0	1	1	1	3	0	2	2	1	5	3	0	0	0	0	2	0		20
R Harvey	4	4	2	8	18	1	0	0	2	3	2	4	4	3	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	42
A McLean	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	14
Rushed																					3			
TOTALS	47	53	38	55	193	21	26	13	27	87	34	24	18	34	110	23	15	11	13	16	20	14		

FREES	Backs	Ctres	Fwds	TOTAL
	7	10	6	23

GOALS	Frees	Play	Marks	TOTAL
	0	3	8	11

DIST	0–15	16–30	31–40	41 +
	1	0	5	5

50 METRE PENALTIES FOR:	2
GOALS FROM PENALTIES:	0

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